

March 11, 2013
Testimony - SB 1055
Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee

Good morning,

Hello, my name is Casey Meskers and I am the President of the Easton Volunteer Fire Company. During the super storm Sandy, we lost our friend and leader, President, Lt. Russell Neary. Russ went out in that storm as he did every week to help the people of Easton. Russ was a volunteer fire fighter and EMT. He spent hundreds of hours each year training to help the community he loved. We are a small town fire department and when there is a call for help we all have to pitch in. Russ was always first to answer that call, whether it was the middle of the night, Christmas dinner, or a dangerous storm.

Russ was also a husband and father. His family meant the world to him. He talked about his two daughters and his wife all the time. He had just finished training to be a track official so he could be more involved in his daughter's high school track program. He would share with me the travel he wanted to do with his wife. The loss that his family has suffered is unimaginable. There is not a day that goes by that we do not miss Russel's friendship and leadership dearly. The night of Sandy, Russ new it was a very bad storm but the town of Easton needed him. He did what he loved and was trained to do. When Russ was struck, the Easton firefighters and EMT's knew how dangerous the storm was but they stayed out in that storm to try to save Russ. We can never repair the loss the Neary's or any other fallen Firefighters or EMT's families have suffered but I do feel that it is our responsibility to try to help those families that have given so much in any way that we can. I hope that you will honor Lt. Russell Neary's legacy of self-sacrifice and commitment to help others by supporting this bill.

Sincerely

Casey Meskers
President, Easton Volunteer Fire Company